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Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations addressing the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note provides a summary of the 13 reports submitted by the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the progress in the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum. The full reports are available on the website of the Permanent Forum (www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii).

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I. Introduction

1. In October 2012, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues sent a questionnaire to United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations enquiring about their activities in relation to indigenous peoples' issues. The questionnaire was also meant to elicit information on the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Further information was sought on how activities aimed at implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the objectives of the Second Decade would affect the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Responses were received from the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The full reports are available on the website of the Permanent Forum (www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii). Summaries of the responses are set out below.

II. Department of Political Affairs

3. As the lead department within the Secretariat devoted to political analysis, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, the Department of Political Affairs has contributed to several mediation processes, involving indigenous peoples' communities, mainly in the Americas. For example, it provided support to facilitate the dialogue between the Government of Panama and representatives of the Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous peoples, which resulted in the approval of legislation banning mining and protecting water and environmental resources in the Ngäbe-Buglé region. It also cooperated with the United Nations country team in Colombia, with a view to supporting conversations between the Government and the indigenous communities of the northern Cauca region.

4. The Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, in a follow-up to a country visit undertaken in cooperation with the Permanent Forum to assess the situation of the Awá peoples in July 2010, contributed to the monitoring of the status of the *planes de salvaguardia* (safeguard plans) mandated by the Constitutional Court in Colombia for the protection of 35 indigenous groups at risk of extinction. Additionally, members of the Department's standby team of mediation experts carried out a mission to support, at the request of the Congressional Peace Commission in Colombia, the organization of *mesas regionales* (regional gatherings) to collect civil society inputs for the peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the guerrillas of the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC). Indigenous peoples' organizations participated and prepared proposals.

5. The Americas Division of the Department and the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum organized a meeting on gender in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a segment addressing the role of indigenous women leaders. Another meeting was organized in Panama to share best practices regarding the prevention and management of conflicts in Central America, with a focus on the impact of extractive industries on indigenous peoples.

6. In December 2012, the Department deployed an expert of its standby team to Santiago to advise the United Nations country team in the provision of technical support to a consultative meeting entitled "Gran Encuentro de los Pueblos Indígenas sobre Consulta Previa" ("Great gathering of indigenous peoples regarding prior consultation"), organized by the Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena (National Corporation for Indigenous Development), with the objective of discussing regulatory mechanisms for the implementation of provisions on consultation as contained in the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Convention No. 169).

III. Department of Public Information

7. The Department of Public Information works closely with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, especially in connection with the annual session of the Permanent Forum through its multilingual television, webcast, radio, photo, meetings coverage and News Centre services. The Department also promoted the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples through its social media platforms, reaching an estimated 6 million people every day, and through its network of 63 information centres around the world.

IV. United Nations Children's Fund

8. In 2012, UNICEF completed a global evaluation of its implementation of the human rights-based approach to programming, which included findings and recommendations relevant to the organization's work on indigenous peoples' issues. Despite good examples of the application of the principle of non-discrimination, challenges persist in terms of collecting disaggregated data. As part of its management response, UNICEF plans to integrate into its new Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2014-2017) measurable and verifiable results and indicators for the most disadvantaged children, including indigenous children. Similarly, UNICEF will assess opportunities to analyse issues of ethnicity through its multiple indicator cluster surveys, as well as its demographic and health surveys and other data-collection tools. Finally, UNICEF will use guidance provided by its new Monitoring Results for Equity System to identify and share concrete strategies for programmes to specifically target indigenous children, adolescents and women. It is also developing principles and programme guidance on indigenous and minority children, within the framework of the System.

9. UNICEF is active at the country level. Its field presence in both developed and developing countries places the organization in a central position to promote and protect the rights of indigenous children, women and youth. In developed countries, it has focused on advocacy and leadership training, facilitating reconciliation processes between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. It has also focused on

improving the education and health conditions of indigenous children and youth by supporting the provision of intercultural and multilingual services.

10. In several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, UNICEF is implementing intercultural and bilingual education programmes. In Ecuador, UNICEF is working with local authorities to conduct territorial tracing activities in indigenous communities to identify out-of-school children. UNICEF Guatemala supported the systematization of educational models for indigenous children in preschool, kindergarten and elementary school. UNICEF Argentina provided support to some provincial education ministries to improve the quality of intercultural bilingual education. UNICEF Venezuela supported postgraduate bilingual education for indigenous school teachers and initiated the training of civil servants in results-based management to improve the implementation of bilingual education policies. In Viet Nam, the cooperation between UNICEF and the national educational authorities resulted in national and provincial communication for development plans addressing the stigma and discrimination facing ethnic minority children. UNICEF Congo Brazzaville is promoting the equitable availability of services, including educational services, for indigenous children.

11. UNICEF is working on a number of studies and analyses, such as a study on the situation of indigenous children in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on education, health, nutrition and child protection. Jointly with ECLAC, the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean published data on deprivations suffered by indigenous children related to housing, drinking water and education. Other studies have been conducted at the country level, for example, on indigenous children and Afro-Honduran children in Honduras, on the sociometric perception of Bolivian children and adolescents, on first language education for indigenous children in Guyana and on indigenous and Maroon education in Suriname.

12. UNICEF Bolivia, UNICEF Ecuador and UNICEF Peru conducted a study on the availability of vocational technical training and education services to indigenous peoples in the Amazon, which is intended to generate knowledge about the Amazon region's environmental priorities in the global context of climate change. In collaboration with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, UNICEF completed a study on teenage suicide among the indigenous peoples of Latin America. In collaboration with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, an adolescent-friendly version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been developed. Moreover, UNICEF is about to complete, in collaboration with UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the World Health Organization (WHO) and ILO, a joint study on violence against indigenous girls, adolescents and young women.

13. UNICEF is implementing recommendations of the Permanent Forum on issues such as birth registration, migration and the incorporation of cultural perspectives in health policies, programmes and reproductive health services. Training is provided for indigenous community health workers on the implementation of mobile strategies in order to ensure that services (health, information, birth registration) reach pastoralist or forest groups and that the availability of data collection and disaggregation is improved. UNICEF is also active in humanitarian and emergency

contexts. In Colombia, it has promoted comprehensive care for children and adolescents — especially to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant peoples — affected by violence, displacement and natural disasters.

14. Within the humanitarian context in Kenya, UNICEF provided emergency education supplies to vulnerable nomadic children in Turkana, including refugee children in Kakuma. With regard to the issue of extractive industries, the UNICEF Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships is currently finalizing a guidance note on corporate social responsibility and engagement with extractive industries, which will include information on the negative effects that extractive industrial work has on indigenous peoples. Finally, UNICEF remains an active member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and it has offered to chair the Support Group for the 2013/2014 period. UNICEF continues to participate in the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, which it joined with ILO, OHCHR, UNDP and UNFPA in May 2011.

V. United Nations Environment Programme

15. UNEP is the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, assisting Governments to address global, regional and national environmental challenges. As a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP is developing new mechanisms to promote transparency and effective engagement with civil society, including indigenous peoples. Pursuant to a Permanent Forum recommendation, UNEP has endorsed its Indigenous Peoples Policy Guidance in November 2012, which will support UNEP staff in engaging with indigenous peoples in its programme of work.

16. UNEP is administering several projects and programmes in relation to indigenous peoples in the areas of education, health and culture, many of which are in the African continent. For instance, UNEP is working with Governments and other relevant stakeholders towards ensuring that initiatives on education for sustainable consumption respect the importance of indigenous knowledge and recognize alternative lifestyles. UNEP also provided support for environmental management of areas inhabited by indigenous peoples that are of enormous environmental, historical, and sociocultural significance, for example, the Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands project, which commenced in August 2004. Through the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which encourages African countries to promote the sound management of chemicals, or the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA), established in Luanda in 2010 to follow up on the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, adopted in 2008 at the African Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment, indigenous peoples have opportunities to engage in processes to agree on the national a l continental priorities on health and the environment.

17. UNEP is the convener for the environment and climate change window under the Millennium Development Goals Fund initiative and has worked to tackle the impacts of climate change on poor communities and find solutions that ensure sustainable development at the country level. For example, in the southern Andean highlands of the Cusco and Apurímac regions of Peru, the United Nations Joint Programme on Environment and Climate Change launched a radio broadcast

popularly known as *Pachamamanchista Munakusun* (Nurturing Our Land) to build awareness about climate change and adaptation measures. Beginning in 2009, UNEP undertook an assessment of the environmental and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland in the Niger Delta, with the community engagement of indigenous peoples throughout the process.

18. Although other UNEP projects and activities on climate mitigation and clean energy do not focus exclusively on indigenous peoples and their communities, they have a potential to benefit rural communities, including indigenous peoples. Examples of such projects and activities are the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the promotion of renewable energy. Several programmes related to GRID-Arendal are aimed at engaging indigenous peoples in the Arctic on the issue of short-lived climate pollutants. The programme *Many Strong Voices* brings together the peoples of the Arctic and small island developing States to meet the challenges of climate change. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, an international science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems, is developing a stakeholder engagement strategy that is also open to indigenous peoples.

19. UNEP has also made progress in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum. This includes the Global Environment Facility-Russian Federation Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Russian Arctic (Arctic Agenda 2020), which comprises projects focusing on Arctic environmental governance, Arctic rivers and biodiversity, including a component that promotes indigenous peoples' participation in biodiversity conservation, water management and environmental decision-making and governance. The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, in collaboration with the Association of World Reindeer Herders, conducted a series of workshops for reindeer herding youth in 2012. In June 2012, a joint UNEP/Mongolia/Russian Federation proposal was approved to develop a full-scale nomadic herders project funded through the Global Environment Facility. The project focuses on biodiversity conservation and the mitigation of land degradation in reindeer herding areas of northern Mongolia and the Far East Russian Federation.

20. The UNEP and UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative will enhance the effective participation of indigenous peoples by using a gender- and rights-based perspective in its programmatic approach in the planning, implementation and evaluation of poverty and environment policies. Through the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability, UNEP will seek to disseminate educational resources on green economy, ecosystems management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, REDD-plus initiatives and so on, to build capacity of indigenous youth. In addition, UNEP consistently ensures the participation of indigenous peoples and their representatives in all its relevant meetings following its nine major groups approach and has also ensured that indigenous peoples are represented in the Governing Council and all its other relevant meetings. As a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP is also developing a global project to support the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and the UNEP Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines), through a joint UNEP-United Nations Institute for Training and Research proposal for a two-year global capacity-development initiative.

VI. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

21. Recommendations to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity arising from the ninth and tenth sessions of the Permanent Forum were considered at the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions in October 2011, and draft recommendations were then forwarded to and considered at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Hyderabad, India in October 2012. Concerning the use of the term "indigenous peoples and local communities", the Conference of the Parties requested that the ad hoc open-ended intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions take into account submissions on this matter and all its implications for the Convention on Biological Diversity and its parties.

22. Regarding the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, the parties to the Convention included seven preambular paragraphs of specific interest to indigenous and local communities, which aid in the interpretation of the preceding articles, including a provision affirming that nothing in the Protocol shall be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the existing rights of indigenous and local communities. Article 12, concerning traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, states that Parties shall not restrict the customary use and exchange of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge within and among indigenous and local communities in accordance with the objectives of the Convention. Article 5 of the Nagoya Protocol requires that each Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures with the aim of ensuring that benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources that are held by indigenous and local communities are shared in a fair and equitable way with the communities concerned, based on mutually agreed terms. The Nagoya Protocol also requires that access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is based on the prior and informed consent or approval and involvement of these indigenous and local communities, and that mutually agreed terms have been established in order to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits.

23. The Conference of the Parties welcomed the adoption of the programme of work between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The implementation of this programme of work will involve key partners such as indigenous and local communities. The Conference of the Parties also decided to initiate the development of guidelines that would facilitate the repatriation of information, including on cultural property, in order to facilitate the recovery of traditional knowledge of biological diversity.

24. In 2012, the secretariat of the Convention was able to facilitate capacity-building and preparatory workshops for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Africa (Burundi, June 2012), Asia (Thailand, July 2012) and Paraguay (August 2012), which focused on indigenous and local communities and biodiversity. The secretariat has also secured additional funds for capacity-building for the recently adopted Nagoya Protocol and is endeavouring to ensure that indigenous and local communities are represented at these events.

25. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity remain committed to the participation of indigenous and local community representatives in the work of the

Convention, including through the establishment of a voluntary fund to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local community representatives in meetings. This includes enhanced participation within the ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, which is the main subsidiary body for discussions related to traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biodiversity. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Code of Ethical Conduct on Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (the Tkarihwaié:ri Code of Ethical Conduct). Although the mandate to develop guidelines within the framework of the Code of Conduct remains voluntary, such guidelines are adopted by the consensus of the parties to the Convention and carry an ethical and moral weight and over time can become established standards in customary international law.

VII. United Nations Development Programme

26. The work of UNDP with indigenous peoples is an integral part of its broader work towards sustainable human development. In 2012, UNDP worked closely with relevant United Nations mechanisms and special procedures to mainstream indigenous issues and to advance the rights of indigenous peoples. UNDP anchors indigenous peoples' issues in development programming through a range of tools and activities, including national workshops on lessons learned and best practices and the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee to United Nations country teams. In the area of human rights, UNDP works closely with OHCHR, drawing on its technical expertise, to enhance its programming support to partner countries. UNDP is also part of the United Nations Development Group human rights mainstreaming mechanism, which promotes a coherent United Nations system-wide capacity development approach towards mainstreaming human rights. The United Nations Practitioners' Portal on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Programming (http://hrbaportal.org) provides a range of tools from the United Nations system to mainstream human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, and facilitates dialogue among development practitioners.

27. In 2001, UNDP adopted its Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, aimed at: (a) fostering an enabling environment for promoting indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making, coexistence of their economic, cultural and sociopolitical systems and developing inclusive government policies and programmes; and (b) integrating indigenous peoples' perspectives and concepts of development into the work of UNDP. In 2012, UNDP revised its Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement, which takes into account the need for dialogue, capacity-building for indigenous peoples and their inclusion and participation in decision- and policymaking. To strengthen engagement on indigenous issues, UNDP is maintaining online platforms to foster peer-exchange on indigenous peoples such as an internal TeamWorks space and an external website on UNDP and indigenous peoples.

28. Given the impact of extractive industries on indigenous peoples and on their livelihoods, UNDP actively engaged with a number of stakeholders and in 2012 developed a Strategy for Supporting Sustainable and Equitable Management of the Extractive Sector for Human Development. In addition, UNDP aims to transform extractive industries to arrive at a sustainable, accountable and participatory

management of the extractive sector. As a starting point, in November 2012 it organized a high-level seminar on the sustainable management of the extractive sector in Guyana, where participants discussed the rights of indigenous peoples, anti-corruption and transparency issues relating to the extractive industries, as well as conflict and conflict prevention and extractive natural resources. In addition, UNDP carried out research on the extractives sector, indigenous peoples and democratic governance, with case studies from Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, to contribute to inclusive and participatory development and governance. The project is currently in its implementation phase and it is expected that the findings would make an important contribution to defining the future role of UNDP and its engagement with indigenous peoples and extractive industries.

29. Under the focus area of parliamentary development, UNDP has supported a series of activities on indigenous peoples' political representation. Promoting Inclusive Parliaments (2009-2011) was a joint initiative of the UNDP Democratic Governance Group and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The aim is to promote the effective representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliaments. Furthermore, the Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of electoral management bodies to plan, manage and deliver democratic elections. In Latin America, the Global Programme focuses on the political participation of indigenous peoples, with a particular emphasis on indigenous women and youth. A Handbook for Parliamentarians on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been developed, through collaboration between UNDP, OHCHR, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IPU and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Further, a new project on building inclusive parliaments for indigenous peoples, which seeks to establish a global network for indigenous parliamentarians, is currently being designed.

30. Within this multi-agency programme (FAO, UNDP and UNEP), UNDP is the lead agency for national governance initiatives aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus), the engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders, and the transparent, equitable and accountable management of REDD-plus payments. In 2012, the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) completed consultations on the UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The UN-REDD Programme also published *Free, Prior and Informed Consent for REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific Region: Lessons Learned*. The main purpose is to share lessons learned on free, prior and informed consent for REDD-plus initiatives, based on the emerging experiences of the UN-REDD Programme partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The UN-REDD Programme is working on community-based REDD-plus activities that aim to direct funds towards community-level projects that address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, strengthen land rights, explore mechanisms for benefit-sharing and advance the implementation of safeguards for REDD-plus initiatives, among others.

31. UNDP has worked extensively at the regional level. Within the Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean 2008-2013, it is fostering dialogue and participation, especially among Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples. In 2012, the work of the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre specifically focused on key

issues concerning indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources, through support to legislative and policy frameworks. Together with OHCHR and the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, UNDP has scaled up support to national human rights institutions, which are crucial to bringing indigenous peoples and Governments together. Finally, UNDP is part of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, together with ILO, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNFPA. At the second meeting of the Partnerships Policy Board, seven proposals for funding were approved in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo and Nicaragua and for a regional programme in South-East Asia. The projects are currently being implemented. The operationalization of the Partnership was welcomed by the Permanent Forum in its 2012 report. Partnership-funded projects have also proven to be catalytic for increasing resources for indigenous peoples' issues at the national level.

32. UNDP is also the administrative agent and one of the 27 participating United Nations agencies of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. In 2012, the Fund signed an agreement with the International Indigenous Women's Forum to implement the initiative on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through an indigenous peoples' perspective. The main goal of this partnership is to ultimately increase indigenous peoples' participation in the Millennium Development Goals monitoring processes through the identification of best practices and lessons learned based on the experience of the Fund. So far a mapping exercise of the 130 joint programmes that the Fund supports has been conducted and 47 of them from 20 countries (mostly in Latin America) have been identified as including the participation of indigenous peoples at the design and/or implementation phases.

VIII. Inter-American Development Bank

33. IDB is committed to advancing the concept of development with identity for indigenous peoples. In 2006, the Bank approved the Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and the Strategy for Indigenous Peoples, which establish long-term objectives, principles and rules for Bank activities with indigenous peoples. The Policy and the Strategy were reviewed by the independent Office of Evaluation of IDB in 2012. The Results Framework of the Ninth General Capital Increase obligates the Bank to report on the participation of indigenous peoples in projects in the following areas: health, targeted anti-poverty programmes, water provision, sanitary connections, upgraded dwellings, civil or identification registries, public low-carbon transportation systems and agricultural services and investments.

34. The Action Plan for Development with Identity for Indigenous Peoples and Peoples of African Descent promotes the development and use of a range of public and private sector instruments to enhance the institutional, technical and financial capacity of the Bank and the region to advance development with identity for indigenous peoples in topics such as biodiversity, climate change and benefit-sharing.

35. The Bank is financing several projects with a focus on indigenous peoples, including a project to investigate how Government ecosystem programmes can be better harnessed by indigenous peoples for sustainable development in their territories, and community-led pilots and programmes to demonstrate the role of

traditional knowledge in preserving natural resources for future generations through small-scale climate change adaptation efforts in Guatemala and Honduras. Indigenous peoples are also part of the new IDB biodiversity and ecosystems services initiative, anticipated for Board approval in 2013, which includes potential financing partnership opportunities for indigenous peoples with Governments and the private sector.

36. Gender is a cross-cutting theme in the Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and in this respect, IDB, in collaboration with local indigenous women's organizations, has developed a detailed analysis of the current condition of indigenous maternal and infant health in rural communities in Latin America. A new IDB project in Guatemala works to identify best practices to promote the empowerment of indigenous girls, while in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, IDB has designed a programme to implement recent legislation on violence against women and to strengthen local networks to offer quality services to survivors of violence, as well as preventative measures. Additionally, the design and implementation of effective consultation processes with indigenous peoples is an issue of significant importance for IDB. For this reason, in 2012, IDB initiated a process with indigenous organizations, civil society, traditional leaders and academics to develop better guidance mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples.

IX. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

37. FAO engagement with indigenous peoples has been increasing in recent years, owing to the adoption of a policy on indigenous and tribal peoples in 2010. Indigenous peoples' participation in the Committee on World Food Security and in the management of the Multi-donor Trust Fund in support of the participation of civil society organizations has been ensured. Internship opportunities are also available through an agreement with the Universidad Indígena Intercultural for the assignment of recent graduates or students to work as interns at FAO. FAO is also working on a number of publications focused on issues affecting indigenous peoples, such as natural resources management and free, prior and informed consent in relation to land acquisition.

38. Through the Benefit-Sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO has provided financial support for the implementation of projects on the contribution of traditional methods for the in situ conservation and management of maize and beans for food security of farming families. Normative analysis has been produced on indigenous views of land and territory, including on the conservation of oases, and on policies and laws for the preservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. Two regional studies on food security legislation and legal issues related to contract farming in support of the Hunger-Free Latin American and Caribbean Initiative have been undertaken. In addition, the FAO National Forest Programme Facility pays particular attention to the recognition and respect of customary and traditional rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, forest dwellers and forest owners in forest policy processes. Also, indigenous peoples have been included in the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries through a consultative development process.

39. For the future, FAO is planning to develop a capacity-building programme for local community leaders, including indigenous leaders. It will launch initiatives to monitor compliance of FAO projects in indigenous territories with the principles established in the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and it will develop capacity-building materials in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security for civil society organizations and indigenous peoples. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is also planning to undertake several projects at the regional level, including activities aimed at the improvement and processing of indicators and data relating to indigenous peoples in the region, in alliance with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre — Population Division and other agencies.

X. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

40. OHCHR continues to strengthen its work to advance the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level and increase its efforts to give practical guidance on the content of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Besides co-chairing the United Nations Indigenous Partnership initiative, OHCHR has implemented many initiatives in pursuance of recommendations made by the Permanent Forum, ranging from capacity-building to the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. In respect of human rights and indicators, in 2012 OHCHR published *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*, to assist in developing quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress in the implementation of international human rights norms and principles. The Guide pays attention to the situation of indigenous peoples and provides concrete examples of indicators related to the implementation of their human rights.

41. In order to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to invoke human rights standards, OHCHR continues to manage the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to support the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in the sessions of the Permanent Forum, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies. In September 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to expand the mandate of the Voluntary Fund to include support for indigenous peoples to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including in the preparatory process (resolution 67/153). The Fund also organized, in cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information, four human rights training modules in four languages, in Geneva and New York, to increase the capacity of grantees and other indigenous representatives to effectively participate in indigenous and human rights mechanisms. In 2012, the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme helped to build the knowledge and capacity of 23 indigenous representatives from 17 countries. Furthermore, the Office in Geneva welcomed a Senior Indigenous Fellow from Canada, who undertook a four-month on-the-job training, where he contributed to the activities of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section.

42. Further to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, OHCHR organized a seminar on the theme of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, which took place in Geneva on 16 and 17 July 2012. OHCHR has developed guidance for national human rights institutions on how to advance the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is expected to be issued in 2013.

43. OHCHR provides substantial and other support to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. For example, OHCHR organized an Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples' Languages and Cultures on 8 and 9 March 2012 to contribute to the Expert Mechanism study on this topic. The Expert Mechanism also completed a report on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries. The Special Rapporteur has continued to examine recurring issues of interest and concern to indigenous peoples worldwide, most notably the issue of extractive industries affecting indigenous peoples and violence against indigenous women and girls. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur issued public statements about situations of immediate concern, such as proposed large-scale development projects on indigenous territories, and land disputes and militarization issues over indigenous lands. In 2012, he undertook country missions to the United States, El Salvador and Namibia. The Special Rapporteur contributed to the work of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism through meetings and dialogues. He held separate meetings with indigenous peoples to receive communications during the annual sessions of both the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism.

44. In 2012, various treaty bodies had the opportunity to address indigenous issues in their review of State party reports, making observations on themes ranging from access to medical care to the need to respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent in connection with economic activities in indigenous peoples' traditional lands and territories. Issues concerning indigenous peoples were also frequently raised in many national reports, compilations of United Nations information, summaries of stakeholders' information and recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review.

XI. International Labour Organization

45. ILO has a specific normative mandate in the area of indigenous peoples' rights, through its responsibility for Conventions Nos. 107 and 169. In addition, a number of other ILO instruments are indirectly related to the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations monitors the implementation of all its conventions and issues observations, which are followed up through technical cooperation of ILO to the countries concerned, as well as through a broader range of capacity-building and other outreach activities, including the Programme on Indigenous Peoples.

46. ILO has undertaken several activities in response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including making reference to traditional occupations as the source of indigenous peoples' land rights within the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (e.g., as comments to reports by several countries, including Australia, Botswana, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mexico). In implementing the recommendations, ILO

encountered some challenges, such as: (a) the lack of systematic reference to ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as mutually reinforcing instruments; (b) the lack of information about the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership for several key actors and stakeholders working on indigenous peoples' issues at both the global and country levels; and (c) the lack of reference to the extensive and consistent observations and comments by ILO supervisory bodies on indigenous peoples within the United Nations systems.

47. ILO counts numerous projects in the different regional areas, the majority of which are being carried out through the Programme on Indigenous Peoples in collaboration with different partners such as Governments, trade unions, employers' organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations. The current activities of the Programme cover 22 countries, including 11 in Latin America, 6 in Asia and 5 in Africa. ILO capacity-development programmes on indigenous peoples include trainings for representatives of Governments, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, staff of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and media, and intensive courses such as the one organized annually in partnership with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Pretoria. Moreover, ILO is the host of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Technical Secretariat and is acting as a lead agency in two of the six joint country programmes (Central African Republic and Nepal). ILO also carries out activities concerning indigenous peoples at the country level through a number of decent work country programmes, which constitute an important tool for assisting the tripartite constituents of the Organization. The ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, in collaboration with a large number of international organizations, including the Permanent Forum, the Expert Mechanism and UNICEF, continues to engage in activities to combat child labour among indigenous children and youth.

48. ILO is actively engaged in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Through country-based projects of the Programme on Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Guatemala, Peru and the Philippines, ILO provides support towards the establishment of consultative mechanisms with indigenous peoples. To ensure indigenous peoples' participation, combat discrimination and facilitate coordination among duty-bearers and service providers, a community-driven participatory development approach was developed, which is proving to be a powerful tool for indigenous peoples' empowerment. In support of efforts to redefine culturally appropriate development policies, several projects of the Programme provide support to Governments and indigenous peoples while mainstreaming indigenous peoples' perspectives in national policies aimed at adopting targeted policies and programmes. In the Philippines, for instance, ILO has assisted the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in the formulation of a master plan for indigenous peoples' development. In Namibia, the Programme provides support to the Government with the implementation of a Government-initiated development programme that focuses on the San indigenous peoples.

49. ILO considers the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 as mutually reinforcing instruments that need to be promoted jointly, especially with a view to enhancing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to defining the post-2015 development agenda. ILO has identified a number of areas of critical importance for its work in the

coming years, including unacceptable conditions of work, the rural economy and the informal sector, which are all critically relevant to the situation of indigenous peoples. If these areas were addressed, this would enable ILO to focus on the empowerment of indigenous peoples, who are one of the groups most vulnerable to climate change, current economic turmoil, conflict and discrimination.

XII. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

50. UNCTAD has undertaken important work in areas relevant to indigenous peoples' issues, particularly in the areas of BioTrade, which is an initiative aimed at promoting trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The principles and criteria that guide the implementation of BioTrade activities include recognition of and respect for the rights and practices of local and indigenous communities in relation to territory, culture and knowledge. In addition, benefits arising from BioTrade activities are to be shared in such a way as to reward the community, as well as to protect and conserve biodiversity, based on prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms with the parties involved. Concretely, BioTrade activities with indigenous communities have focused on: (a) capacity-building and institutional strengthening; (b) research and information; and (c) the sustainable use of native biodiversity. The UNCTAD BioTrade programme sponsored a case study in Ecuador, where a pilot project started in 1998 by 20 women had, by 2001, evolved into a communitarian business named Jambi Kiwa; the project aimed to improve the quality of life, foster gender equality, guarantee the sustainable use of surrounding natural resources and capture the market potential of medicinal plants.

XIII. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

51. The activities carried out by ECLAC in 2012 have included identifying indigenous peoples in health records and in the 2010 census round; improving the knowledge on the situation of indigenous peoples, women and youth, in the production and dissemination of disaggregated data for indigenous peoples; and increasing national capacities through technical assistance and training to State agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations in Latin America. These activities have been developed through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC, in conjunction with other agencies of the United Nations, such as UNFPA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNICEF, with support from aid agencies, such as the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Ford Foundation, and through cooperative agreements with State agencies such as the ministries of health of Ecuador and Guatemala.

52. ECLAC has focused its work on activities such as (a) the provision of systematic technical advice to countries in Latin America to implement the recommendations regarding international and regional censuses and indigenous peoples with the participation of indigenous and non-indigenous peoples and the support of other agencies of the United Nations, in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); (b) the inclusion of the identification of indigenous peoples in the health records in cooperation with PAHO, UNFPA and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, and training of health-

care workers to improve the quality of birth registration; (c) participation in various forums and workshops relating to population and housing censuses for the dissemination and exchange of experiences and the advancement of the establishment of national and regional strategies. Moreover, ECLAC, together with PAHO, has developed technical material for the inclusion of data on indigenous peoples' ethnicity in health records. These efforts improve health information systems and lead to a greater understanding of health issues from an indigenous perspective, all of which contributes to strengthening democratic institutions and promoting intercultural dialogue. However, significant challenges remain, since progress is uneven among countries in the region and the minimum standards contained in international recommendations have not yet been met.

53. In the area of demographic research, with support from the Ford Foundation, ECLAC developed an atlas of indigenous peoples in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru, mapping their demographic, education and health conditions. ECLAC and UNICEF cooperated to develop a study on child poverty in indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent in Latin America, which provides ethnically differentiated information for 17 countries in Latin America on the extent of child poverty and gaps in access to education, information, housing, drinking water and sanitation facilities.

54. ECLAC is in the process of updating its database on indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean containing the system of sociodemographic indicators of indigenous populations and peoples of Latin America. Additionally, ECLAC has processed information derived from the 2010 census relating to indigenous peoples with disabilities, some of which has been incorporated into the 2012 edition of the publication, *Social Panorama of Latin America*. On the other hand, ECLAC has continued to strengthen national capacities for the use of this information in the design and monitoring of policies and the promotion of human rights. Overall, ECLAC has made progress in producing knowledge about the situation of indigenous peoples in Latin America, with a focus on indigenous women, children and youth. Several studies have been completed with participatory methodologies that provide input to the construction of intercultural knowledge. However, further efforts are needed to achieve greater outreach and impact from the results of the studies, especially among decision makers and indigenous peoples' organizations. Information-sharing would enhance the coordination between partners, indigenous peoples' organizations, academic centres and statistical institutes, for defining content to contribute to the empowerment of indigenous peoples, and to equality and non-discrimination.

XIV. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

55. UN-Women has worked for the promotion and inclusion of indigenous issues throughout its policy, programming and coordination work. Efforts at the global, regional and country levels demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting the rights of indigenous women and girls.

56. In the area of research and advocacy, UN-Women has responded with substantial work focusing on indigenous women's rights in the context of human rights, specifically on promoting access to land and resources, on ending violence

against women and girls and on encouraging political participation. For example, UN-Women and OHCHR have developed a Handbook on Effective Strategies to Realize Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources to support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to ensure women's access, use and control over land and other productive resources. In coordination with UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, UN-Women is working on a report on violence against indigenous girls, adolescents and youth, with the aim of increasing knowledge of the nature, prevalence, incidence and consequences of violence affecting indigenous girls, adolescents and youth.

57. UN-Women will continue to support the engagement of women excluded from political participation, in particular young and indigenous women. UN-Women will undertake a research programme in 2013 on indigenous women's leadership and access to politics. In preparation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a focus on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, UN-Women has supported the writing of key reports on the issues and has systematically included the issues of indigenous women and girls. With regard to the post-2015 development agenda, UN-Women promotes the integration of indigenous peoples' issues in all discussions and the participation of indigenous women in consultations at the national, regional and international levels. UN-Women has also made efforts to ensure that indigenous women are included in its core civil society advisory groups, at both the regional and global levels, and featured prominently in panels held on the occasion of International Women's Day.

58. Capacity-building is at the core of promoting the meaningful participation of indigenous women. Building the capacity of women and youth is just as critical as building that of the authorities and officials who oversee the exercise of their rights. UN-Women has focused on building the capacity of indigenous women in the areas of political participation, especially electoral issues (Latin American region), negotiation and peace processes (Myanmar), local governance structures (Burundi) and constitutional reform and implementation processes (Plurinational State of Bolivia). UN-Women, through its positioning at the global level and its regional and country-level presence, offers multidimensional support to indigenous women and girls. Through its Fund for Gender Equality, which has awarded nine different grants across 15 countries since its inception in 2009, UN-Women has invested approximately $4.7 million in civil society-based initiatives linked to indigenous peoples' issues. The UN-Women regional programmes in Asia and Latin America have addressed indigenous peoples' issues through research and advocacy and by bolstering women's ability to participate in key decision-making arenas.

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Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Information from States on addressing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report is a compilation of the responses from Member States to a questionnaire on action taken or planned to address and implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The questionnaire and the complete responses from States are available on the website of the Permanent Forum.

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I. Introduction

1. As of 1 March 2013, written responses to the questionnaire submitted for the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues were received from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Denmark and Greenland;[1] Ecuador and Paraguay. These States provided responses to the questionnaire, as well as overviews on the situation of indigenous peoples in their countries. The complete written responses from States can be found on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIISessions/Twelfth.aspx).

2. The responding Member States outlined their commitment to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples as well as the need to eliminate discrimination and marginalization within their countries. In May 2012, the Parliament of Denmark unanimously endorsed a new strategy for the country's development cooperation, entitled "The right to a better life". The new strategy has two interdependent aims, to reduce poverty and to assist people in realizing their right to a better life. To that end, Denmark intends to employ a human rights-based approach to development. The strategy indicates that the United Nations human rights conventions, standards, norms and instruments, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, should serve as the compass that guides the political dialogue, concrete development interventions and partnerships. The protection of indigenous peoples' rights and the Millennium Development Goals form an integral part of the Danish development strategy.

3. On 22 January 2013, the Plurinational State of Bolivia celebrated its third year as a social, united State, encompassing the rights of a plurinational nation that is free, independent, sovereign, democratic, intercultural and decentralized. During this period, the Government prioritized public policies in favour of indigenous peoples and nations as well as peasant communities, guaranteeing their rights under domestic and international law.

II. Response to recommendations from the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum

4. In response to recommendation 4 adopted at the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum, Ecuador made reference to article 1 of its Constitution (2008), which acknowledges a constitutional State, with principles of rights and justice, which is democratic, sovereign, independent, united, intercultural, plurinational and secular. In response to recommendation 9, a new law on intercultural education in the Ecuadorian system was adopted in order to improve access to knowledge and the revitalization of ancestral knowledge, and to build an intercultural society.

[1] Greenland has an autonomous government within the Government of Denmark. Denmark submitted its report as Denmark and Greenland.

III. Efforts of Governments regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals

5. The Danish Government, in advocating implementation of Millennium Development Goal 2 as primary education, has provided support to the education sectors in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Nicaragua, where positive results have been achieved through targeted activities on intercultural bilingual education. An example from Bolivia (Plurinational State of) shows that the drafting of the new education law was influenced by the efforts of the Consejos Educativos de Pueblos Originarios de Bolivia, an organization funded by the Danish Centre for Political Studies which provided the impetus to strengthen the focus on indigenous values and visions within the educational system. In addition, the establishment, in 2012, of the Plurinational Institute for Language and Cultures was a result of the advocacy efforts of the Danish Centre, which also contributed to the formulation of the regionalized curriculum. The regionalized curriculum has been praised for its inclusive and participatory approach. In Guatemala, the Danish International Development Agency has promoted the training of master level, professional, indigenous, bilingual and intercultural teachers in the Guatemalan highlands.

6. With regard to Millennium Development Goal 3, in the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, the Danish International Development Agency has supported environmental programmes in Nicaragua, achieving significant results in the empowerment of indigenous women. Through training and awareness-raising activities, indigenous women are becoming conscious of their crucial role in sustainable forest management and gaining the confidence to raise their voices in various forums. In Guatemala, racism and discrimination issues have been addressed by indigenous women's networks in Sololá, including in the area of advocacy for judicial and human rights.

7. Since 2009, the Government of Ecuador has been developing actions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the forest provinces in the country (Sucumbios, Chimborazo and Esmeraldas). The first phase of the programme for the development and cultural diversity was implemented by the Ministry of Patrimony with the support of the Millennium Development Goals Fund. The first phase of the programme has been successfully implemented, and the second phase has received regular funding from the Government. The aim of the programme is to promote culture and intercultural dialogue, and to address poverty, exclusion and discrimination, which prevent indigenous peoples from exercising their rights.

IV. Government responses to: (a) health; (b) education; (c) culture

8. At its twelfth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will review its recommendations in relation to health, education and culture. States were requested to provide information on how they deal with those issues within indigenous communities. Denmark stated that the Inuit in Greenland are Danish citizens and that Danish citizens moving from Greenland to Denmark have, in general, the same rights and obligations as other Danish citizens. Greenlanders residing in Denmark are covered by, inter alia, the Danish Act on Social Services.

9. The autonomous government of Greenland has taken over responsibility from Denmark in all domestic areas, including health care and education. Greenland has a modern and well-functioning welfare system providing free health care and education. The Arctic countries are facing some common challenges in health and are working together to find solutions, exchange knowledge and share experiences. Further information on the situation in Greenland is continued in previous reports submitted to the Forum on the home rule Government, including the introductory report on Greenland self-government (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4).

10. Greenland and Denmark are participating actively in supporting preparations for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including through support for the participation of indigenous peoples in their own preparatory processes. For example, the first indigenous brainstorming meeting on the World Conference, held in Copenhagen in January 2012, led to the establishment of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group and the appointment of the indigenous co-facilitator, as well as financial contributions to the Arctic regional meeting on the Conference, held in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, in October 2012. Financial contributions made to the Inuit Circumpolar Council as well as the indigenous support organization, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, and will, inter alia, enable the convening of the global indigenous preparatory conference on the World Conference, to be held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013.

Health

11. Pursuant to its Constitution, the traditional medicine of the indigenous population has been integrated into the health system of Bolivia (Plurinational State of). The Vice-Minister of Traditional Medicine and Interculturalism has developed a national register of traditional doctors. In addition, the Ministry of Sport and Health has adopted a strategic framework on traditional medicine and interculturalism in health.

12. In Ecuador, the programme for the development and cultural diversity, headed by the Ministry of Patrimony, supports the efforts of hospitals to provide culturally appropriate birthing arrangements for women. Ecuador has also developed a manual on the role of midwives in the national health system. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has developed precautionary measures for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in the Tagaeri and Taromenane communities, and provides quarterly health visits to those communities which are located in the Amazon region.

13. In Paraguay, the Indigenous Health Department, through family health units, is implementing the national policy on indigenous health which includes providing medical assistance and collecting data on the health status of indigenous communities, including family planning and immunizations.

Education

14. Through its Policy Unit, the Ministry of Education of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) has focused on intercultural and multilingual education, in coordination with other ministries and peasant, indigenous and parent organizations, through a number of events and workshops on policy development. Computer centres have also been established in indigenous communities, benefiting more than 600 students at the primary and secondary levels. With the support of the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), bilingual education programmes have been established in the Amazon region to train teachers to lead the process of developing curricula and to carry out research and produce instructional materials. The country has also developed intracultural, intercultural and multilingual policies in order to include the participation of indigenous peoples in the functioning of the Institute of Languages and Cultures. The Ministry of Education has created a scholarship programme for indigenous students to attend third level institutes and universities. In 2012, universities that provide education in three indigenous languages (Universidades Indígenas Bolivianas Comunitarias Interculturales Productivas: Aymaya, Quechua and Guarani) were funded through 5 per cent of the direct tax on hydrocarbons.

15. In Ecuador, the law on superior education provides scholarships for indigenous peoples to cover the costs of studying for masters' or doctoral degrees in or outside the country. In addition, the Ministry on Education has a subsecretary on intercultural education, which guarantees policies on intercultural and bilingual education.

Culture

16. The Ministry of Cultures of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) was created solely to formulate and implement policies in the field of culture and tourism. Under that Ministry, the Vice-Ministry of Decolonization and the Vice-Ministry of Interculturalism pay particular attention to the revitalization and promotion of indigenous peoples' cultures and identities. The Vice-Ministry of Decolonization works to decolonize public institutions throughout the whole country, promoting, in particular, campaigns against racism and discrimination. The National Committee against Racism and Discrimination is also promoting the recognition of indigenous leaders and heroes. In February 2012, an action plan for 2012-2015 against racism and discrimination was adopted. On 21 December 2012, the Government organized an international event to mark the beginning of a new era, according to the Mayan calendar, and the "mandate of the Sun" was adopted.

17. In Ecuador, the Ministry of Culture promotes decolonization through the national system of festivities and through popular celebrations and projects to create intercultural centres in communities.

18. In Paraguay, the secretariat of the Presidency on Linguistic Policy coordinates with the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as the National Secretary of Culture on the development of linguistic policies. The Academy on the Guarani Language promotes laws to revitalize the language, promote research and establish a Guarani alphabet.

19. In line with previous recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to Member States, the Danish Government offers financial support to the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. In accordance with the Government's priorities, Denmark decided to more than double its support to the Trust Fund in the four-year period from 2010 to 2013. The major part of the contribution is dedicated to the small grants programme under the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in support of indigenous peoples' organizations to promote, support and implement the objectives of the Decade.

20. Denmark and Greenland jointly promote the implementation of the objectives of the Second International Decade, in particular the goal of ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes. Denmark and Greenland have also worked to ensure that due note is taken of the report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/21/24) and of General Assembly resolution 67/153 on the rights of indigenous peoples adopted at the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

V. Obstacles encountered by Governments in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

21. Denmark pointed out that there are numerous recommendations of the Permanent Forum and that it can be difficult to implement them as the situation of indigenous peoples is context driven. Moreover, some recommendations have a broad scope and may require significant measures such as legislative changes. An example is recommendation 8 of the eleventh session, regarding the recommendation to include the doctrine of discovery/dispossession in educational curricula. In addition, many recommendations are not applicable, or are not fully applicable, in the context of Denmark/Greenland.

22. Ecuador highlighted that with the adoption of its new Constitution in 2008, and the restructuring of the Government, additional time and effort will be needed to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

VI. Factors that facilitate government's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

23. The close dialogue and constructive cooperation between Greenland and Denmark and the Inuit Circumpolar Council, including the Arctic Council, as well as the national framework of guidelines and strategies pertaining to indigenous peoples, all provide a basis for implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

24. Ecuador pointed out that it worked through its constitutional framework, particular institutions at the ministerial level, departments and specific programmes, including through coordinated work among those entities, to implement policies for the benefit of indigenous peoples. In addition, the statistics of the latest population census held in 2012, which incorporated ethnic and self-determination variables, provided important information to develop policies and programmes for indigenous peoples.

VII. Specific laws and/or policies addressing the issues of importance to indigenous peoples

25. As reported above (see para. 9), Greenland obtained self-government in 2009. There are guidelines on the policy of the Government of Denmark on indigenous issues, including a strategy for Danish support to indigenous peoples (2004) and a technical guide for civil servants working with development cooperation ("How-to"

note on indigenous peoples, 2011). Moreover, the Government's "Strategy for the Arctic 2011-2020" includes a number of goals that aim at ensuring the rights of the indigenous peoples living in the Arctic.

26. In 1991, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), signed International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169, and in 2007 the Government signed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law. Since its report to the eleventh session, the Government has: adopted a law against discrimination and racism; created departmental committees to combat racism and discrimination; and adopted a system to track and monitor complaints by indigenous peoples. In 2012, 73 per cent of the municipalities that were changing their status to obtain autonomy concluded their by-laws, and 62 per cent of those laws were submitted to the Plurinational Constitutional Tribunal. The law to protect indigenous peoples in danger of extinction, in voluntary isolation and in non-contactable status was adopted by decree on 2 July 2012. The law benefits, in particular, the Ayoreos indigenous peoples.

27. Since the adoption of its new Constitution in 2008, Ecuador has adopted a number of laws and policies on indigenous issues. The legislation covers various areas, including sport, advanced education, public service, citizen's participation, intercultural education, economy, finance, fellowship programmes and mechanisms to protect indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

28. The Constitution of Paraguay recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to enjoy their own political, social, economic, cultural and religious systems, and, under the law, indigenous languages are protected and promoted. A number of laws recognizing the specific rights of indigenous peoples have led to the creation of a national policy on indigenous peoples, as well as to the establishment of the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute.

VIII. Government programmes, laws and institutions that address indigenous children and youth

29. Because a minority of Greenlanders living in Denmark are socially vulnerable, the Government plans to advance a strategy for their protection. Initiatives in Greenland related to the protection of vulnerable women and children and the promotion of their rights are described in the report of Denmark and Greenland to the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum (see E/C.19/2012/12).

30. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, through a ministerial agreement of 2012, facilitates the education of indigenous youth for recruitment as diplomats. At present, of 70 diplomats recruited, 20 are indigenous peoples. There are other laws that promote the rights of indigenous children and youth in the areas of sports, intercultural education and advanced education, among others.

31. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the law on rights and linguistic policies promotes individual and collective rights. There is a programme to develop educational materials that prints documents, newsletters and publications in various indigenous languages.

32. In 2009, the National Secretary of Children and Adolescents of Paraguay established a section for indigenous children and adolescents. In 2010, the

Government established a department for indigenous children and adolescents, with the aim of decreasing the use of street children as child labour.

IX. Government programmes, laws and institutions that address indigenous women

33. During the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ecuador supported the adoption of resolution 56/4 on indigenous women as key actors in poverty and hunger eradication (see E/2012/27). The fund for gender equality, supported by the Judicial Council of Transition, the National Women's Council and the Council for Gender Equality, provides the financing for projects to empower women, including indigenous women.

34. In 2010, the Plurinational State of Bolivia established a national coordination body for indigenous peoples (Coordinadora Nacional de Autonomias Indigenas Originarias Campesinas). The Vice-Ministry of Land, with the support of UN-Women, is implementing a programme to promote gender-equitable use and access to land, territories and natural resources.

35. The Government of Paraguay, through the Ministry of Women, promotes the implementation of the third national plan of equality and opportunity 2008-2017, which aims to strengthen the role of indigenous women, using an intercultural approach, within the framework of consultation and participation. Two main activities are promoted to implement the plan: (a) support for indigenous women's art and craft activities and support for their participation at national and international fairs to generate income; and (b) prompt attention in cases of violence or discrimination against indigenous women.

X. Government national institutions (ministry, department, ombudsman) on indigenous peoples' issues

36. Both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Institute for Human Rights have programmes that focus on the rights of indigenous peoples, as does the Arctic Council. In future, in its annual status report on human rights in Denmark, the Danish Institute will include a chapter focusing on the human rights situation in Greenland.

37. Ecuador reported the existence of many institutions working on indigenous peoples' issues, including the subsecretariat of intercultural bilingual education (http://www.dineib.gob.ec). In Paraguay, the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (http://www.indi.gov.py) focuses on indigenous peoples' issues.

38. On 15 November 2012, the Parliament of Greenland adopted an act to establish a Greenland Council on Human Rights, which came into being on 1 January 2013. The independent Council will work together with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to promote and protect human rights in Greenland. The Council will appoint a member of the board of the Danish Institute to ensure close cooperation between the two institutions.

XI. Formal or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for civil servants

39. Denmark does not have capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for civil servants. However, a technical guide on indigenous peoples' rights produced in 2011 is available for civil servants and others. The government of Greenland is in the process of planning a seminar for civil servants in Danish ministries to be provided at the Greenland representation in Copenhagen.

40. Ecuador reported that the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in coordination with the Ministry of Patrimony and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has launched the first training module on the collective rights of indigenous peoples. Various workshops have been organized for officials from the armed forces, the police, ombudsman's offices and the judiciary.

41. In 2012, in Paraguay, the Department of Health organized 19 training sessions for officials on intercultural issues, human rights and indigenous peoples. The Department is monitoring the attention provided by health officers to indigenous peoples. In addition, training sessions on national and international legislation for civil servants were organized, including the participation of representatives of the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs and organizations of indigenous peoples. Fourteen workshops were organized for some 501 civil servants of the Ministry of Education.

XII. Promotion and/or implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

42. Denmark and Greenland have worked closely together for years to promote indigenous peoples' rights. Denmark's first strategy to support indigenous peoples was prepared in 2004 based on a Danish/Greenland initiative. The establishment of the self-government arrangement for Greenland in 2009 is in itself an illustration of Denmark's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2011, a review of this strategy concluded that the Danish/Greenland cooperation has led to ground-breaking institutional results, as well as to improved living conditions for indigenous peoples.

43. Historically, Denmark and Greenland have been consistently active in international forums where indigenous peoples' rights are discussed. For instance, Denmark and Greenland participate actively in negotiations in the Human Rights Council and in the General Assembly on resolutions relating to indigenous peoples' rights. During the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, Denmark and Greenland ensured that reference was made to the United Nations Declaration in the resolution on the implementation on the Convention on Biological Diversity and Denmark was a sponsor of the resolution on the rights of indigenous peoples.

44. In September 2012, as part of international efforts to promote the United Nations Declaration, the Danish Agency for Culture, the government of Greenland and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs organized an international expert workshop on the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and indigenous peoples. The workshop was held in Copenhagen as part of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption

of the World Heritage Convention in 1972, celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the theme "World heritage and sustainable development: the role of local communities". The workshop resulted in a call to action and other supporting documents, including a list of nominations for World Heritage sites and related recommendations from the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and from the Permanent Forum, which were discussed during the workshop. In addition, a discussion was held on proposed amendments to the operational guidelines on free, prior and informed consent.

45. Over the past 20 years, as part of its development cooperation activities, Denmark has provided approximately $70 million in continuing support to improve human rights and good governance in Central America. In 2012, Denmark approved a new multi-year development programme to improve human rights in the region, in particular the rights of indigenous peoples, women and human rights defenders. The support will be channelled through ILO, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and an international non-governmental organization working on human rights. Financial support from the Government to organizations such as United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (the only indigenous peoples' organization in Denmark) and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs also contributes to the practical implementation of indigenous peoples' rights.

46. On 10 February 2012, the Plurinational State of Bolivia in compliance with ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration, adopted consultation law No. 222 for indigenous peoples in the Isiboro Sécure National Park and Indigenous Territory.

47. In Ecuador, on 27 June 2012, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled against the Government in the case of Sarayaku, indigenous peoples from the Amazon, concerning the encroachment of a foreign oil company on their traditional lands in the early 2000s without consultation with the Sarayaku peoples. Since the Government was notified by the Court, various payments have been made through the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and other reparation measures will also be implemented. In order to ensure that similar events do not occur, the Government will respect the rights of indigenous peoples recognized in the United Nations Declaration as well as in its national Constitution. In order to strengthen the relationship with the borders of Colombia and Peru, the Government of Ecuador has established binational technical committees to work on indigenous peoples' issues.